



Abandoned Uranium Mines
U.S. EPA/Navajo Nation EPA
Aerial Gamma Radiation Survey



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • OCTOBER 1999

U.S. EPA to Perform Helicopter Survey of Abandoned Uranium Mines in Red Valley, Cove, Sanostee Chapters

At the request of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will continue to perform aerial gamma radiation surveys of the Navajo Nation abandoned uranium mines. This latest survey will be performed by helicopter in October 1999 over Red Valley, Cove and Sanostee Chapters.

The purpose of this survey is to measure naturally occurring radiation (gamma radiation) coming from abandoned uranium mining areas. Results

of this survey will help determine if these sites pose a risk to people in the area and, if so, what measures should be taken to minimize that risk.

We would like residents of the area to know that the low-flying helicopter going back and forth is measuring radiation from the mines for this purpose.

Keeping the Chapters Informed

USEPA will inform the Navajo Nation Chapters of the results of this survey and any follow-up actions that may be recommended.

Who to Contact If You Have Questions or Concerns

USEPA and NNEPA will do their best to provide information to the Navajo Nation Chapters. We want to encourage you to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the abandoned uranium mines. U.S. EPA has a TOLL-FREE phone number you may call at any time. Please leave your name and telephone number and we will call you back.

YOU MAY CALL

US EPA

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement
Coordinator
US EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 231-3075 or
(415) 744-2187

Navajo Chapters

Red Valley Chapter
(520) 653-5800

Cove Chapter
(520) 653-4025

Sanostee Chapter
(505) 723-2479

Navajo Nation EPA

Stanley Edison
Navajo Superfund Program
43 Crest Rd.
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Iowa Army Ammunition Plant Aerial Survey
Set for Week of October 21

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will conduct an aerial radiological survey over the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAP) beginning Wednesday, October 23, 2002. This survey is part of the on-going IAAP site-wide radiological investigation project under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of the survey is to identify areas of the site containing man-made radioactive materials, principally depleted uranium. Argonne National Laboratory will publish an environmental radioactivity report detailing the results of this survey.

A Bell 412 helicopter, tail number N411DE, silver/gray in color with black and blue trim, will fly at an altitude of 100 feet above the ground in a grid pattern during daylight hours. The aerial survey will require about 4 days of flying between the dates October 23, 2002 and October 29, 2002. The flights are coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration and other appropriate government agencies.

The helicopter and crew are part of an NNSA research and environmental monitoring program. During the past 39 years, NNSA has conducted hundreds of similar aerial surveys to determine the radiological status of areas near sites where nuclear operations are or were conducted.

A flight crew from the Remote Sensing Laboratory, Nevada (operated by Bechtel Nevada for the NNSA's Nevada Operations Office) will perform the survey.

DOE Helicopter to Fly Routine Survey Over Sandia National Laboratory

A U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) helicopter will fly a routine radiological background survey over the Sandia National Laboratories, including most areas of the Kirtland Air Force Base and some adjacent portions of the Cibola National Forest near Albuquerque, New Mexico beginning Wednesday, April 26, 2000.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the levels of natural and manmade radiation in the areas on and adjoining the Sandia National Laboratories. An environmental radiation profile will be made and compared with similar surveys that were done in 1981 and 1993.

The Bell 412 helicopter, tail number N411DE, silver/gray in color with black and blue trim, will be flying at an altitude of about 150 feet above the ground in a north-south grid pattern during daylight hours covering an approximate area of 50-square-miles (approximately 130-square-kilometers). The Sandia survey will require about 15 days of flying between the dates April 25, 2000 and May 12, 2000. The flights are coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration and other appropriate government agencies.

The survey is part of an ongoing DOE research and environmental monitoring program. During the past 37 years, DOE has conducted hundred of similar aerial surveys to determine the radiological status of areas near sites where nuclear operations are conducted or scheduled.

A Bechtel Nevada flight crew from DOE's Nevada Operations Office will be performing the survey.